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FOOD INFORMATION

Office of Information
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May

Farm Labor Campaign

No. 12

May Farm Labor Needs

(For orientation of campaign information materials)

May is a month of planting and cultivating corn; sowing late spring wheat; planting, cultivating, and chopping cotton; transplanting tobacco; harvesting early vegetables; picking strawberries; of laying plans to mobilize all labor resources for assuring farmers at planting time that there will be labor to help save the crops in the peak labor periods later on; and of beginning actual mobilization in some areas.

May plans call for -

- (1) Completing the organization of local labor advisory committees.
- (2) Making detailed determination of farm labor needs in each county.
- (3) Setting up community labor placement centers where needed.
- (4) Educational work to help farmers make most efficient use of labor.
- (5) Explaining to farmers that town women and children are often the only emergency help available and how they can, with proper training and supervision, do good work.
- (6) Laying plans for complete local mobilization to meet farm labor needs and getting campaigns underway in many communities.
- (7) Assisting schools and colleges with recruiting and training students for farm work.
- (8) Completing plans for recruiting and training and placing nonfarm women for farm work.
- (9) Recruiting, transporting, training, and placing full-time workers.
- (10) Transporting domestic seasonal workers.
- (11) Bringing in foreign workers.
- (12) Continuation of deferment of farmers and farm workers by Selective Service so they can continue food production.
- (13) Conditioning city people to respond to local calls for farm-labor help where, when, and if needed.

Peak labor needs in most areas will come later on. Heaviest special labor requirements in May include:

General U. S.

Preparation of land for planting.

Regular work on livestock, poultry, dairy, and general crop farming

In the South.

Planting, cultivating, and chopping out cotton.
Cultivating corn.
Harvesting early vegetables.

Virginia, Kentucky, Maryland -

Transplanting tobacco.
Planting and cultivating corn.

Florida -

Picking oranges
Harvesting early vegetables
Digging early potatoes
Picking strawberries

Louisiana and Texas -

Picking strawberries
Harvesting early vegetables

On the Atlantic Coast.

Picking strawberries

In the Corn Belt.

Finishing planting corn and starting cultivating
Plant soybeans

In the Dairy Belt (Northern States from Minnesota East to Maine).

Planting potatoes
Sowing oats
Planting dry beans

In the irrigated valleys of the Southwest and West.

Cutting hay
Thinning and hoeing sugar beets
Planting cotton

In California.

Thinning and hoeing sugar beets
Picking oranges
Planting dry beans
Harvesting early vegetables

In the Pacific Northwest.

Planting potatoes